

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01
EB-08 /090 W

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O R 101217Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7439
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: BOTHA'S JUNE 6 REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT

REF: CAPE TOWN 1141

1. FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIAL HANSARD TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN
MINISTER BOTHA'S JUNE 6 REMARKS IN AFRIKAANS IN PARLIAMENT
ON NAMIBIA. THE PRESS ACCOUNT OF THIS PORTION OF HIS REMARKS
WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL.

QUOTE: I WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER POINT: THESE PROPOSALS WERE
ACCEPTED LONG BEFORE IT WAS DECIDED TO ACT AGAINST THE
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TERRORISTS IN ANGOLA TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE
TERRITORY. IT IS AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND, WHERE WE LEANED
OVER BACKWARDS TIME AND AGAIN, THAT THE HON. MEMBER FOR
BEZUIDENHOUT NOW TELLS ME THAT HE CANNOT SEE HOW IT IS FEASIBLE
FOR INDEPENDENCE TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT BEFORE DECEMBER AND IS
PLEADING IN ANTICIPATION FOR FURTHER DELAY. I WANT TO GO FURTHER
AND STATE THAT IF WE CARRY ON IN THIS WAY AND DO NOTHING

WHILE THE WEST, IN THE MONTHS THAT LIE AHEAD, PLEADS WITH AND TRIES TO APPEASE SAM NUJOMA AND NEGOTIATE WITH HIM, THE TERRITORY WILL NOT BECOME INDEPENDENT WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THEN WE WILL STILL BE STANDING HERE BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR. THE RAINY SEASON IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA BEGINS APPROXIMATELY IN MID-OCTOBER. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ONCE HEAVY RAINS HAVE SET IN DURING THE RAINY SEASON, WHICH LASTS UNTIL APRIL, ONE CANNOT HOLD ELECTION. IN OTHER WORDS, UNLESS WE DECIDE AT SOME STAGE OR ANOTHER AT LEAST TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON, I CAN GIVE OUR MEMBERS THE ASSURANCE THAT BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, WE SHALL STILL BE CONDUCTING THE SAME KIND OF DEBATE, AND BY THEN HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOT DEAD. IT WILL BRING ABOUT A DETERIORATING SITUATION WITHIN THE TERRITORY AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL UNCERTAINTY IN THE TERRITORY WILL GET OUT OF HAND. THERE IS ALSO THE DANGER THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY LOSE ITS CREDIBILITY, NOT ONLY AMONG THE WHITE LEADERS OF THE TERRITORY AS SUCH, BUT AMONG THE BLACK AND COLOURED LEADERS OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA. THAT IS THE SITUATION, AND THAT IS THE FACT WHICH I WANT TO STATE UNEQUIVOCALLY HERE THIS AFTERNOON. THEREFORE I WANT TO TELL THE HON. MEMBER....

MR. J.D. DU P. BASSON: MR. CHAIRMAN, MAY I ASK THE HON. THE MINISTER FOR CERTAIN INFORMATION? I AM NOT DEALING WITH POLICY NOW, BUT WITH THE PRACTICAL SITUATION. DOES THE HON. THE MINISTER HONESTLY THINK THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS CAN

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BE FINALIZED BETWEEN NOW AND THE START OF THE RAINY SEASON?

THE MINISTER: I SHOULD NOT LIKE TO TAKE THAT MATTER ANY FURTHER TODAY. WE ARE AT A VERY DELICATE STATE. I DO NOT WANT TO TAKE THE MATTER ANY FURTHER THAN I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED. IF WE WANT TO KEEP AT ALL CLOSE TO THE INDEPENDENCE DATE OF 31 DECEMBER THEN FURTHER STEPS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL NATURE WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON BEGINS. TO US IT IS NOT A MATTER OF UNILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION. WE HAVE ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS. TODAY IS 6 JUNE, AND WE ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS AS LONG AGO AS 25 APRIL. THE INDICATIONS IN THE NEWSPAPERS ARE THAT MR. NUJOMA CANNOT EASILY BE FOUND AND THAT HE WANTS TO DELAY MATTERS FURTHER. A FURTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THE FACT THAT CHIPANGA, WHO HAD BEEN LOCKED UP BY SWAPO, HAS NOW BEEN RELEASED. HE WAS ONE OF NUJOMA'S LIEUTENANTS AND HAS TURNED AGAINST MR. NUJOMA. HON. MEMBERS CAN READ FOR THEMSELVES WHAT MR. CHIPANGA HAS TO SAY ABOUT MR. NUJOMA. ALL WE ARE INTERESTED IN IS TO AFFORD THE PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY A FAIR, OPEN AND JUST OPPORTUNITY ONCE AND FOR ALL OF VOTING FOR PEOPLE TO REPRESENT THEM IN A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SO THAT A DECISION CAN BE MADE ON A CONSTITUTION WHICH CAN FORM THE BASIS OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE. OUR GOVERNMENT WILL THEN

NEGOTIATE WITH THAT GOVERNMENT SO THAT WE CAN WITHDRAW FROM
THE TERRITORY IN AN HONOURABLE WAY. THEIR SECURITY MUST BE
ENSURED, TREATIES MUST BE CONCLUDED BETWEEN THEM AND US,
AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA MUST BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF GOING
ITS WAY AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE, IN THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY WITH ITS ECONOMY AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE INTACT.
THAT IS ALL WE WANT. THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE WORKED FOR AND WHAT
WE HAVE MADE MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS FOR. IT HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT
PAIN, WITHOUT DIVISION AMONG THE WHITES, AND WITHOUT A GREAT
DEAL OF SORROW AND REMORSE. ALL THESE ELEMENTS HAVE
ACCOMPANIED THE PROCESS.

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A FURTHER ASPECT I WISH TO COMMENT ON IS THE FOLLOWING: IF
OUR TROOPS PRESERVE THE SAFETY OF THOSE PEOPLE BY CRACKING DOWN
ON AND CLEANING UP THE SWAPO NESTS FROM WHERE THEY LAUNCH ALL
THEIR DANGEROUS KILLING EXPEDITIONS, THERE IS A TREMENDOUS
CHORUS OF OBJECTIONS, FROM THE WEST AS WELL, AS THOUGH WE
WERE BEING INSINCERE AND DID NOT WANT TO IMPLEMENT THE
PROPOSALS. I WANT TO SAY THAT THEY ARE WELCOME TO SEND THE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN TO SOUTH

WEST AFRICA; WE ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE HIM AND ALSO TO GO AHEAD WITH THE NECESSARY CONSTITUTIONAL STEPS. I TOLD A WESTERN REPRESENTATIVE LONG BEFORE 25 APRIL: "TAKE YOUR PROPOSALS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. MY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CONSIDER THAT AS UNILATERAL ACTION ON YOUR PART; WE WILL STILL CONSIDER UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PROPOSALS ON THEIR MERITS, BUT GET THEM APPROVED AT LEAST." MR. KAPUUNO WAS SHOT DEAD AT THE END OF MARCH, AND WE ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS AFTER THAT. WE DID NOT SAY THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS DEATH, THE FACT THAT THE HERERO HAD BEEN DEPRIVED OF A GREAT LEADER, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE DTA WAS NO LONGER THERE, WE COULD NOT GO AHEAD WITH THE ELECTIONS AND COULD NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS EITHER. WHEN THE BUS WITH SEVENTY PEOPLE ABOARD WAS HIJACKED; WHEN THE LANDMINE WAS PLANTED UNDER THE BUILDING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF OWAMBOLAND AND THE ENTIRE CABINET COULD HAVE BEEN BLOWN UP; WHEN SHOTS RANG OUT AND WHEN SHOTS WERE BEING FIRED AT PEOPLE AND WHEN SWAPO'S VIOLENCE ESCALATED AFTER 25 APRIL, WE DID NOT RUN TO THE WEST AND SAY THAT OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS OF 25 APRIL WAS NO LONGER VALID AND THAT WE WANTED THE MATTER REVIEWED. NOR DID WE INSIST THAT THE NUMBER OF TROOPS WHICH WOULD REMAIN IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA TOWARDS THE FINAL PHASE SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM 1500 TO 15000. WE DID NOT DO THAT, BUT UNCOMPLAININGLY ENDURED EVERYTHING. IF EVER THERE WAS A GOVERNMENT WHICH SHOWED ITS SINCERITY IN TRYING TO ESTABLISH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN A TERRITORY, THEN IT IS THIS GOVERNMENT WITH ITS ACTIONS IN REGARD TO THIS MATTER. ONLY RECENTLY I TOLD A LIBERAL-MINDED AMERICAN: "I AM PREPARED TO DEFEND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S CASE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA BEFORE ANY LIBERAL AUDIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND I WILL WIN IT, BECAUSE WE HAVE AGREED TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING LIBERAL-MINDED PEOPLE, THEMSELVES SAY THEY ARE HOLDING DEAR. WE HAVE AGREED TO EVERY ONE OF THEM, AND YET IT IS NOT ENOUGH". IN THIS CONNECTION, I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN APPEAL TO HON. MEMBERS ON THAT SIDE OF THE HOUSE. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IN THEIR ALSO TALKING TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS; IT IS QUITE IN ORDER. IN FACT, I WANT TO REQUEST THEM TO STATE OUR CASE TO THOSE REPRESENTATIVES. TELL THEM THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT, THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING FAIR IN ITS ACTIONS, AND THAT THE LEADERS WERE FAIR...(INTERJECTIONS). IF WHAT WE DID IN SOUTH WEST, WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH, AND IF WHAT WE DID

IN SOUTH WEST, RESULTS IN SANCTIONS AND OTHER DRASTIC ACTIONS AGAINST US, THEN I WANT TO SAY TODAY THAT NOTHING WILL EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH. THAT, THEN, IS MY APPEAL TO THEM, AND I AM GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE SUCH A POSITIVE REACTION FROM THE HON. OPPOSITION.

THE HON. MEMBER ALSO REFERRED TO THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS. I JUST WANT TO POINT OUT THAT THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED A MECHANISM FOR THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS. ALL WE ARE WAITING FOR NOW IS FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS. THEN THAT MECHANISM CAN BE PUT INTO OPERATION. WE CANNOT DO THAT BEFORE THE TIME, HOWEVER. THE FEW PEOPLE WHO WERE RELEASED TOGETHER WITH MR. CHIPANGA, ARE ONLY A SMALL GROUP. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION -- WHICH HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE WEST

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-- THERE ARE SEVERAL HUNDRED FORMER SWAPO MEMBERS WHO REBELLED AND WHOM MR. NUJOMA HAD IMPRISONED, INTER ALIA, IN TANZANIA. THEY ARE LIVING IN DETENTION CAMPS UNDER THE MOST PRECARIOUS, HUMILIATING, IN-HUMAN AND CRUEL CONDITIONS. HOW AM I GOING TO LOOK PASTOR NDJOBA, THE LEADER OF OWAMBO,

IN THE FACE IF WE SHOULD SUDDENLY BEGIN TO RELEASE PRISONERS UNILATERALLY AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING DETAINED IN TANZANIA ARE NEVER SEEN AGAIN? THERE IS A MECHANISM WHICH HAS BEEN AGREED UPON IN THIS CONNECTION AND IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS THE PROPOSALS, THIS MECHANISM CAN BE PUT INTO OPERATION.

I JUST WANT TO TOUCH ON A FINAL ASPECT BEFORE I LEAVE THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA ISSUE. PRESSURE HAS BEEN EXERTED ON US, ESPECIALLY BY THE USA, TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OUR TROOPS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SOUTH WEST AFRICA UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. WE AGREED TO THAT BECAUSE WE WERE SATISFIED THAT THE REDUCED NUMBER OF TROOPS UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF AN ABATEMENT OF THE THREAT, WOULD NOT AMOUNT TO AN INVALIDATION OF THE UMBRELLA OF SECURITY WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA. IN THE NATURE OF THINGS, HOWEVER, IT WAS A PAINFUL MATTER. I WANT TO POINT OUT TO THE HOUSE THAT AMERICA HAS A TRUSTEESHIP TERRITORY, MICRONESIA. DO HON. MEMBERS KNOW WHAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED WITH THAT TERRITORY? THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMERICA AND MICRONESIA READS ---

THE AGREEMENT CAN BE SEVERED AT ANY TIME BY EITHER SIDE, BUT THE UNITED STATES WILL RETAIN THE AUTHORITY FOR DEFENSE MATTERS, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, FOR 15 YEARS.

MICRONESIA IS ALSO A NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORY AND CONSISTS OF A NUMBER OF SMALL, SCATTERED ISLANDS WITH A POPULATION OF 150000 PEOPLE. IN TERMS OF ARTICLE 83 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UN, THIS MATTER SHOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN HANDLED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. BUT IN THAT COUNCIL, THERE IS A RUSSIAN WITH A VETO WHO MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR AMERICA. HOWEVER, BECAUSE AMERICA HAS THE ATOM BOMB, THAT IS TO SAY, THE POWER AND THE BRUTE FORCE, SHE CAN ENFORCE THIS TYPE OF AGREEMENT ON MICRONESIA. HER TROOPS WILL REMAIN IN THE TERRITORY FOR 15 YEARS, REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS. IT IS NOT HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH THE BIG POWERS ASPIRE TO, IT IS POWER. END QUOTE.
EDMONDSON

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